

# SYLLABUS

## Social Dimensions of Disaster, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will develop skills in applying sociological principles and research methodology to the practice of emergency management.
2. Students will acquire an introduction to current research pertaining to the sociological aspects of disaster.
3. Students will develop an understanding of how social science research can be used as a basis for modifying public policy related to emergency management.

### Text Book:

A collection of reprints of journal articles and book chapters has been assembled for this course.

### Outline of Topics and Required Student Readings:

1. Course orientation

Syllabus; Course Bibliography

Students are expected to become familiar with one reference book which summarizes sociological disaster research published prior to 1985. Copies are available in the library reserve room. Thomas E. Drabek. 1986. *Human System Response To Disaster: An Inventory of Sociological Findings*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

2. What is a Disaster?

Adler, Jerry. 2002. "Five Who Survived." *Newsweek* (September 9):20-29.

3. History of Sociological Research on Disasters

Kreps, Gary A. 2001. "Disasters, Sociology of." Pp. 3718-3721 in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences* edited by Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

4. Overview of Disasters and Hazards in the U.S.A. Today

Mileti, Dennis S. 1999. *Disasters By Design: A Reassessment of Natural Hazards in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Joseph Henry Press. (Chapter 3 only; "Losses, Costs, and Impacts," pp. 65-104).

5. Terrorism: Changing Threat Perceptions and Response Preparedness

Miller, Judith, Stephen Engelberg, and William Broad. 2001. *Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War*. New York: Simon and Schuster. (Chapter 1 only; "The Attack," pp. 15-33).

6. All-Hazards Emergency Management

Wilson, Jennifer and Arthur Oyola-Yemaiel. 2000. "The Historical Origins of Emergency Management Professionalization in the United States." *Journal of American Society of Professional Emergency Planners* 7:125-153.

7. Disaster Mythology

Fischer, Henry W., III. 1998. *Response to Disaster: Fact Versus Fiction and It's Perpetuation*. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, Inc. (Chapter 2 only; "The Behavioral Response To Disaster"; only first section of this chapter entitled, "The Public Perception of How People Behave In a Disaster: The Disaster Mythology," pp. 13-22.

8. Sources of Disaster Myths

Mitchell, Jerry T., Deborah S.K. Thomas, Arleen A. Hill and Susan L. Cutter. 2000. "Catastrophe in Reel Life Versus Real Life: Perpetuating Disaster Myth Through Hollywood Films". *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 18:383-402.

9. Understanding Disaster Warnings

Drabek, Thomas E. 2000. "The Social Factors That Constrain Human Responses To Flood Warnings." Pp. 361-376 in *Floods* (Vol. 1) edited by Dennis J. Parker, London: Routledge.

10. Public Warning Responses

Gladwin, Hugh and Walter Gillis Peacock. 1997. "Warning and Evacuation: A Night for Hard Houses." Pp. 52-74 in *Hurricane Andrew: Ethnicity, Gender and the Sociology of Disasters* edited by Walter Gillis Peacock, Betty Hearn Morrow and Hugh Gladwin, London: Routledge.

11. Community Evacuation Behavior

Dow, Kirstin and Susan L. Cutter. 1998. "Crying Wolf: Repeat Responses to Hurricane Evacuation Orders." *Coastal Management* 26:237-252.

12. Building Effective Warning Systems

Sattler, David N. and Amanda L. Marshall. 2002. "Hurricane Preparedness: Improving Television Hurricane Watch and Warning Graphics." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 20:41-49.

13. Disaster Research Methods

Drabek, Thomas E. 2002. "Following Some Dreams: Recognizing Opportunities, Posing Interesting Questions, and Implementing Alternative Methods." Pp. 127-153 in *Methods of Disaster Research* edited by Robert A. Stallings, Philadelphia: Xlibris Corporation.

14. Constructing Theoretical Models

Perry, Ronald W. 1994. "A Model of Evacuation Compliance Behavior." Pp. 85-98 in *Disasters, Collective Behavior, and Social Organization* edited by Russell R. Dynes and Kathleen J. Tierney. Newark, Delaware: University of Delaware Press.

15. Victim Responses To Disaster

Larson, Erik. 2000. *Isaac's Storm*. New York: Vintage Books. (Introduction entitled: "The Beach: September 8, 1900", pp. 3-16 and first sections of Part IV entitled "Cataclysm": "The Telegram," p. 175; "The East Side: Louisa Rollfing," pp. 176-178; "Avenue P ½: Parents and Their Choices," pp. 179-187; and "25<sup>th</sup> and Q: Isaac Cline," pp. 188-192).

16. Non-Victim Responses to Disaster

Wedel, Kenneth R. and Donald R. Baker. 1998. "After the Oklahoma City Bombing: A Case Study of the Resource Coordination Committee." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 16:333-362.

17. Understanding Looting Behavior

Hooper, Michael. 1995. "The Value of Community Policing in Preventing Civil Disorder." *The Network* 13:33-37.

18. Mid-Term

19. Emergent Social Groups in Disaster

Aguirre, Benigno E., Dennis Wenger, and Gabriela Vigo. 1998. "A Test of the Emergent Norm Theory of Collective Behavior." *Sociological Forum* 13:301-320.

20. Organizational Responses to Disaster

Denis, Hélène. 1995. "Coordination in a Governmental Disaster Mega-organization." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 13:25-43.

21. Crisis Decision making

Cosgrove, John. 1996. "Decision Making in Emergencies." *Disaster Prevention and Management* 5:28-35.

22. Emergent Multiorganizational Networks

Drabek, Thomas E. 2003c. *Strategies For Coordinating Disaster Responses*. Boulder, Colorado: Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado. (Chapter 5 only; "Coordination Strategies and Response Effectiveness," pp. 122-152).

23. Case Study Presentations

Student Choice

24. Case Study Presentations

Student Choice

25. Community Responses to Disaster

McEntire, David A. 2001. "Multi-Organizational Coordination During the Response to the March 28, 2000, Fort Worth Tornado: An Assessment of Constraining and Contributing Factors." (Quick Response Report #143). Boulder, Colorado: Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, University of Colorado.

26. Disaster Recovery and Community Change

Beggs, John J., Valerie A. Haines, and Jeanne S. Hurlbert. 1996. "The Effects of Personal Network and Local Community Contexts on the Receipt of Formal Aid During Disaster Recovery." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 14:57-78.

27. Disaster Inequalities

Fothergill, Alice. 1996. "Gender, Risk, and Disaster." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disaster* 14:33-56.

28. Tourism and Disaster: Preparedness, Responses, and Impacts

Drabek, Thomas E. 2000. "Disaster Evacuations: Tourist-business Managers Rarely Act as Customers Expect." *Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly* 41:48-57.

29. Disaster Stress

Arata, Catalina, J. Steven Picou, David Johnson, and T. Scott McNally. 2000. "Coping with Technological Disaster: An Application of the Conservation of Resources Model to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill." *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 13:23-39.

30. Media in Disaster

Wilkins, Lee. 2000. "Searching For Symbolic Mitigation: Media Coverage of Two Floods." Pp. 80-88 in *Floods* (Vol. 2) edited by Dennis J. Parker. London: Routledge.

31. Disaster Planning Myths

Neal, David and Brenda D. Phillips. 1995. "Effective Emergency Management: Reconsidering the Bureaucratic Approach." *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies and Management* 19:327-337.

32. Strategic Planning by Local Emergency Managers

Drabek, Thomas E. 2001. "Coordinating Disaster Responses: A Strategic Perspective." *Journal of the American Society of Professional Emergency Planners* 8:29-38.

33. Implementing Emergency Management Information Technology

Stephenson, Robin and Peter S. Anderson. 1997. "Disasters and the Information Technology Revolution." *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies and Management* 21:305-334.

34. Disaster Mitigation Exercise

Burby, Ray J. 2000. "Land-Use Planning For Flood Hazard Reduction." Pp. 6-18 in *Floods* (vol. 2) edited by Dennis J. Parker. New York: Routledge.

35. Exercise Analysis

Wisner, Ben. 2001. "Capitalism and The Shifting Spatial and Social Distribution of Hazard and Vulnerability." *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* 16 (Winter):44-50.

36. Disaster Denial and Disaster Preparedness Behavior

Lindell, Michael K. (ed.). 1997. "Adoption and Implementation of Hazard Adjustments." (Part Two only; "An Assessment of Strategies.") *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 15:389-414.

37. Field Trip: American Red Cross

Carley, Kathleen M. and John R. Harrald. 1997. "Organizational Learning Under Fire: Theory and Practice." (First four sections only) *American Behavioral Scientist* 40:310-316.

38. Field Trip: Local Emergency Management Agency

Green, Walter G. III. 2001. "The State of the Local EOC: A Preliminary Study." *Journal of the American Society of Professional Emergency Planners* 8:71-85.

39. Field Trip: State Emergency Management Agency

Hwang, Seong Nam, William G. Sanderson, Jr. and Michael K. Lindell. 2001. "State Emergency Management Agencies' Hazard Analysis Information on the Internet." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 19:85-106.

40. Field Trip: Federal Emergency Management Agency

Sylves, Richard and William R. Cumming. 2004. "FEMA's Path to Homeland Security: 1979-2003." *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* 1 (Article 11):1-21 (Accessed March, 2004 at <http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol1/1552/11>).

And

Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2003. "FEMA History." Washington, D.C.: Federal Emergency Management Agency. (Accessed January, 2004 at: <http://www.fema.gov/about/history.shtm>).

41. What Works in Risk Communication?

Rogers, George O. 1998. "Siting Potentially Hazardous Facilities: What Factors Impact Perceived and Acceptable Risk?" *Landscape and Urban Planning: An International Journal of Landscape Ecology, Landscape Planning and Landscape Design* 39:265-281.

42. Future Trends in Emergency Management

Simpson, David M. and Gregory A. Howard. 2001. "Issues in the Profession: The Evolving Role of the Emergency Manager." *Journal of the American Society of Professional Emergency Planners* 8:63-70.

43. Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Emergency Management

Oliver-Smith, Anthony. 1999. "What is a Disaster?": Anthropological Perspectives on a Persistent Question." Pp. 18-34 in *The Angry Earth: Disaster in Anthropological Perspective* edited by Anthony Oliver-Smith and Susanna M. Hoffman. New York: Routledge.

And/or

Mitchell, James K. 1999. "Findings and Conclusions." Pp. 473-502 in *Crucibles of Hazard: Mega-Cities and Disasters in Transition* edited by James K. Mitchell, Tokyo-New York-Paris: United Nations University.

44. Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Users

Neal, David M. 2000. "Developing Degree Programs in Disaster Management: Some Reflections and Observations." *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 18:417-437.

45. Final Examination

**Modes of Evaluation:**

1. Mid-term Examination (take home essay) – 28%
2. Case Study Analysis (described below) – 10%
3. Oral Summary of Case Study – 5%
4. Persuasive Mitigation Speech – 5%
5. Field Trip Reaction Report (described below) – 16%
6. Final Exam (take home essay) – 28%

7. Class Discussion – 8%

**Disaster Case Study Analysis**

1. Length: 6 typewritten pages or equivalent (double spaced) is the maximum
2. Case study selection criteria
  - a. Disaster focus
  - b. Author must be a social scientist, preferably a sociologist
  - c. Book length report (not a journal article)
  - d. Instructor approval required (on or before Session 14)
  - e. Examples: Taylor et al. (1970); Erikson (1976); Peacock et al. (1997)
3. Required Format: (use the following subtitles)
  - a. Book citation
  - b. Credentials of author (degrees, positions, previous publications)
  - c. Summary of event and locale
  - d. Research methods
  - e. Major social science conclusions
  - f. Confirmation with Drabek Inventory
  - g. Inconsistencies with Drabek Inventory
  - h. Emergency management policy issues
  - i. Conclusions most relevant to emergency managers

**Field Trip Reaction Report**

1. Students will submit four reports reflecting the course field trips.
2. Length: 3 typewritten pages or equivalent (double spaced)
3. Format: use the following subtitles

- a. Agency name
- b. Speaker
- c. Questions: List 4 questions you would like to ask; these are to be written prior to the trip.
- d. Reactions:
  - 1) Which of your questions did you have the opportunity to ask and what answer was given?
  - 2) What did you learn about human responses to disaster (victims, agency personnel, the public at large)?
  - 3) What did you learn about emergency management (agency roles, governmental roles and laws, career paths)?
  - 4) What did you learn about sociological research applications to emergency management?
  - 5) What was the single most important new piece of information about human response to disaster that you learned?

### **Late Paper Policy**

It is assumed that all papers will be submitted in class on the date due. One point will be deducted from the grade assigned each day beyond the due date.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Submission of any work other than your own, like any other dishonest act, will result in disciplinary action in accordance with university policies.